

APPROVED MINUTES

Human Rights Commission

Monday, February 22, 2016

5:30 PM

McLeod Conference Room

1800 West Old Shakopee Road

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS – 5:30 P.M.

- 1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call** Present: Xavier Bicotti, Maureen Carlson, Sheila Fishman, Dennis Kane, Daniela Kunkel, Jared Leese, Johnathon McClellan, Savannah Salato, Ibrahim Yusuf
- Staff: Lorinda Pearson, Manager and Staff Liaison, Human Services Division
Heather Lambert, Administrative Assistant, Human Services Division
- Guests: Jaylani Hussein, Executive Director, CAIR – Minnesota
(Council on American Islamic Relations)
- Chair D. Kane called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. A quorum was present.
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes - January 25, 2016** M/D. Kunkel, S/I. Yusuf unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 meeting as amended.
- 1.3 Adoption of Agenda** M/Z. Bicotti, S/J. McClellan unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.
- 1.4 Oath(s) of Office** Z. Bicotti read and signed his Oath of Office for a term ending December 31, 2016. M. Carlson read and signed her Oath of Office for a term ending December 31, 2016.
- 1.5 Announcements** Sinew: Female Native Artists of the Twin Cities
- State of the City
 - 2016 All City Volunteer Breakfast
- L. Pearson stated Artistry is hosting the exhibition “Sinew: Female Native Artists of the Twin Cities” in the Inez Greenberg Gallery at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, February 12 – April 1, 2016. The artists selected for this exhibit are female Native American artists who currently live and work in the Twin Cities area. In addition, an Artist Talk/Panel Discussion is taking place on March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bloomington Council Chambers.
- L. Pearson stated Mayor Gene Winstead and City Manager Jamie Verbrugge will be presenting “Better Together”, the State of the City Address, on March 16, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Radisson Blu, Mall of America. Commissioners interested in attending the State of the City must contact Heather Lambert by Monday, February 29, 2016. H. Lambert will register Commissioners on behalf of the Human Rights Commission, and registration fees for Commissioners will be paid for by the City.
- L. Pearson stated the 2016 All City Volunteer Breakfast is taking place on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Marian Hall in Bloomington. All City volunteers, including Commissioners, will receive an invitation to attend this annual event that features a breakfast buffet and entertainment. In addition, all volunteers will receive a small gift. L. Pearson stated the City Council, Mayor and City Manager will be present to greet everyone. Contact H. Lambert if a food accommodation is required.

II. PROGRAM – 5:35 P.M.**2.1 CAIR - Minnesota
(Council on American
Islamic Relations)**

D. Kane welcomed Mr. Jaylani Hussein, Executive Director of CAIR – Minnesota (Council on American Islamic Relations). Mr. Hussein stated it has been a busy day, as news about an anti-Muslim Minnesota license plate in St. Cloud broke earlier today.

Mr. Hussein stated CAIR is American's largest Islamic civil liberties and advocacy group, with 35 offices and chapters across the United States and Canada. Since its establishment in 1994, CAIR has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America.

CAIR – Minnesota was founded in 2007. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. Mr. Hussein stated CAIR-MN provides education on behalf of community members experiencing discrimination and CAIR-MN works to remedy cases through in-person negotiations, filing charges of discrimination, letter writing, and referrals to their attorney referral network. Mr. Hussein reported cases handled by CAIR-MN range across employment, public accommodation, school discrimination, hate crimes and governmental religious/racial profiling.

Mr. Hussein reported CAIR-MN has seen an increase of 250% in civil rights cases they have handled from 2007 to 2013.

Mr. Hussein opened the floor for questions from Commissioners. He concluded by sharing an invitation to "Trump The Fear", a CAIR-MN fundraising dinner on Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Event Center in Minneapolis, MN.

III. CONTINUING BUSINESS – 6:15 P.M.**3.1 Re-cap 2016 Work
Plan/2015 Annual
Report, City Council
Meeting, January 25,
2016**

D. Kane stated he presented the 2016 HRC Work Plan and 2015 HRC Annual Report to the City Council at their regular meeting on January 25, 2016. The City Council approved both the Work Plan and the Annual Report.

3.2 2016 Work Plan

- Public Relations
- DDAC

J. McClellan stated he did not attend the last School District's DDAC meeting, as he was in the Hospital. J. McClellan explained DDAC is the District Diversity Advisory Council which is responsible for advising the Superintendent and School Board in all matters concerning diversity and inclusion. The membership consists of individuals of different races and cultures throughout the schools and community.

- Egg Hunt and Family Walk

D. Kane stated volunteers are needed to work the HRC Booth at the 2016 Egg Hunt and Family Fun Walk on Saturday, March 26, 2016. S. Salato volunteered to work the Booth, and J. Leese volunteered to help set-up. S. Fishman stated she worked the Egg Hunt in the past; it is a well-attended event that gives the HRC an opportunity to create awareness. L. Pearson stated there will be give-aways for kids at the Booth.

- Diversity Day Committee

D. Kunkel stated Diversity Day takes place every year at both High Schools in Bloomington. The day features a Peace Run between both schools and a presenter is brought in to speak about diversity. For 2016, the Diversity Day Committee selected Wing Young Huie, a professional photographer who documents people in a culturally diverse and changing urban landscape. L. Pearson stated some of Mr. Huie's photographs are currently on display at the Science Museum of Minnesota in the "Race: Are We So Different"

exhibit. L. Pearson stated Olsen Middle School also participates in Diversity Day, the date for 2016 has yet to be determined. L. Pearson stated the Peace Run t-shirt contest is an annual event. Students have until February 29, 2016 to turn in their t-shirt designs. The HRC will vote on the winning t-shirt design at the March regular meeting. L. Pearson explained the City and the School District co-fund the Diversity Day speaker; the t-shirt design contest is run internally through the School District, including payment for the t-shirts (with the Richfield Bloomington Credit Union donating \$100.00 to the winner); and the City does all the marketing, coordinates the volunteers for the Peace Run, and pays for Police Department presence at intersections along the Peace Run.

- Metro South Resource Fair

S. Fishman stated she will work the HRC Booth at the Metro South Resource Fair on February 23, 2016. This Fair is for students at Metro South.
- Career Fair, Kennedy High School

D. Kane stated he will work the HRC Booth at the Kennedy High School Career Fair on March 16, 2016 from 9:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. L. Pearson stated this Career Fair has been planned by Family Engagement Counselors.
- Equality
 - Black History Month Activities
 - The Bridge to the Ballot Event

D. Kane stated the “Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot” event was rescheduled from February 2, 2016 to March 8, 2016 due to a snowstorm. Dr. Joyce Ester, President of Normandale Community College, will moderate the panel discussion. Dr. Artika Tyner, Professor, University of St. Thomas, Susan Sheridan Tucker, Executive Director, League of Women Voters, and Otis Zanders, President and CEO, Ujamaa Place, will be the distinguished panelists. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and J. Leese, I. Yusuf, S. Salato, Z. Bicott confirmed they are available to volunteer. J. McClellan and D. Kunkel may be available to volunteer.
- Advancing Racial Equity Project, “Race: Are We So Different?”

L. Pearson stated she attended the Advancing Racial Equity Speaker Series at the Science Museum of Minnesota on February 17, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The program featured Joanne Jones-Rizze, Director of Community Engagement at the Science Museum of Minnesota; Diana Falchuck, Deputy Director of the City of Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative and project manager of an organizing effort in Seattle to advance racial equity; and Benita Horn, a community leader in Seattle. As part of the Speaker Series, L. Pearson was able to explore the “Race: Are We so Different?” exhibit at the Science Museum and she encourages other Commissioners to view the exhibit, recommending 2 – 3 hours to view it. She stated the Science Museum originally created this exhibit, and it has been traveling over the years. When first opened, the HRC sponsored a Field Trip to the exhibit with the community. In addition, the HRC sponsored discussion groups on the “Power of Illusion” exhibit. S. Fishman asked if a smaller scale exhibit may be used by the HRC, and L. Pearson replied the Science Museum is working on a smaller version of the traveling display.
- Cultural Competence
 - Block Captains Workshop

D. Kane stated the Block Captains Workshop is taking place on Saturday, March 12, 2016. This is an opportunity for Commissioners to meet with Block Captains. He stated the new Crime Prevention Coordinator in charge of planning this event is Kathryn Swatosh. D. Kane will be present as he is a Block Captain, Z. Bicott volunteered to work the HRC booth, with J. McClellan assisting, his schedule permitting.

IV. FINAL COMMENTS – 6:55 P.M.

M. Carlson stated she would like to incorporate what was shared in tonight's Program, with the large Somali and Muslim population in Bloomington, in to the Work Plan. She proposed some kind of community education around

these topics. L. Pearson stated this could be a piece of Racial Equity Discussions, or could play part in the multicultural dinners listed in the Work Plan. I Yusuf inquired about the schedule for the multicultural dinners, and L. Pearson responded a Planning Committee composed of diverse individuals throughout the community will be working on the schedule.

With meeting time remaining, D. Kane asked Commissioners to go around the table and reflect on their experiences with the HRC.

J. Leese stated he has been on the HRC for one year, and he joined the HRC to be involved in the community and to have the opportunity to give back. He further stated he works in Property Management, where human rights issues are raised on a consistent basis.

I. Yusuf stated he has been on the HRC for almost one year, and he joined the HRC to get involved and serve the community.

J. McClellan has been on the HRC for one year, and he joined the HRC to be part of something that could help the City overall.

S. Fishman stated she has been on the HRC for three years, and she has been most excited about the HRC's work with the Federal District Court, as well as the outreach in to the community (i.e. Naturalization Ceremony).

S. Salato joined the HRC last month, and as a student at Kennedy High School (KHS), she sees a lot of hope for her generation. She stated KHS is ahead of the curve on human rights issues, and being part of that environment, she sees the progress being made by the millennial generation.

D. Kunkel is in her second year on the HRC, and stated her sister served on the HRC before she did. D. Kunkel stated she likes to volunteer and looks for ways to give back to the community.

D. Kane stated he is serving his fifth year on the HRC, and is a retired Bloomington teacher. This is his 40th year as an insulin dependent individual, which is one reason he became interested in the ADA.

M. Carlson stated she sees three areas lacking in the HRC Work Plan: Seniors, Homeless and the LGBT Community (June has Pride festivities and National Coming Out Day occurs in October). D. Kane responded the HRC must study to see how topics relate to Human Rights issues, as opposed to Human Services issues.

M. Carlson inquired how many Committees Commissioners should take part. D. Kane encouraged Commissioners to be part of whatever their schedule allows and reminded Commissioners contributions by the HRC are a shared responsibility by all members.

V. ADJOURNMENT – 7:00 P.M.

M/J. McClellan, S/S. Fishman unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.